

drawn - 9 ft from NE to thin E edge

Drawn 27a

71.1009 0.054 0.0515

For the

Curios and Relics

Furniture

Dresser

Gift from Abraham Lincoln to
Ann Rutledge

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Bureau Bought By Lincoln Will Be Exhibited At Fair

An early American bureau, a piece of furniture which it is claimed

Abraham Lincoln purchased to give to Ann Rutledge, his first love, will be exhibited in the museum at the Illinois State fair, August 16 to 23.

It comes from the collection of Lincolnia belonging to Mrs. S. M. Myers of Auburn, other articles from which will also be displayed, among them, a red shawl the "Rail Splitter" is said to have presented to Mary Elder as compensation for work performed for him.

The bureau, which is fashioned out of black walnut, was sold to James Alexander, soon after the untimely death of Ann Rutledge, according to Mrs. Myers.

Upon Mr. Alexander's death, the bureau became the property of his

sister, Sarah, wife of Alexander O'Neill, and upon her death it passed into the hands of Martha O'Neill Turley. Mrs. Turley, according to Mrs. Myers, gave it to Mrs. Martha A. Warford of Chatham, a school mate and life long friend.

Eight years ago, Mrs. Myers, who is the daughter of Mrs. Warford, became the owner of the bureau.

The shawl which Mrs. Myers is lending to the fair museum is knit of red yarn, and was, during the pre-Civil war days, a fashionable bit of feminine apparel.

1930

A family heirloom with an unusual Lincoln story behind it is the prized possession of Mrs. Ida W. Myers of Virden, who, now that she has entered her eightieth year, wishes to dispose of it to some one interested in the life of the great emancipator.

The article is a bureau more than a century old, fashioned, so the family story goes, at the order of Abraham Lincoln as a gift for Ann Rutledge.

Mrs. Myers sets the date of the bureau's manufacture at about 1830. "It has always been reputed in my family that he (Lincoln) gave it to Ann Rutledge," she writes. At her death it was returned to Lincoln, who sold it to my mother's uncle, Jim Alexander."

From hand to hand the valuable piece of furniture passed, and its story lived by word of mouth, both finally becoming the possession of Mrs. Myers.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2013

http://archive.org/details/curiosrelicsfurnlinc_61

